



Doug White, President Pro Tempore
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Committees:

Vice Chair-Rules and Reference
Finance and Financial Institutions
Agriculture
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee
Legislative Ethics Committee
Ohio Ballot Board

March 12, 2002

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Those of us who live in rural America, we cherish our lifestyle and in most cases wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. We also seek the same services afforded by modern technology that urban dwellers enjoy. Unfortunately, sometimes such services are slow to come to rural areas. But on a brighter note, the latest in television service will easily come our way if government regulators do the right thing and approve the pending merger between EchoStar and Hughes Electronics. If they do, for the first time, those of us who live in rural America will have access to better service for television, video and high-speed Internet service at prices fully competitive with what urban residents are paying.

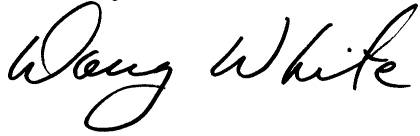
The new company created by the combination of EchoStar and Hughes Electronics would be able to offer expanded services and competition to parts of Ohio and the rest of the country that have been sorely underserved to date. Among the services that would likely be offered are greatly expanded high-definition television programming, pay-per-view and video-on-demand services, specialty and foreign language programming, and other new and improved product offerings. Additionally, the ability for satellite consumers to now receive their local television stations is of great benefit.

But rural areas would not be the only ones to benefit from this merger. For any areas already receiving these services via cable – either rural or urban – the increased competition will help ensure fair pricing and high quality services.

The benefits I listed above are why so many people who live in rural areas are actively lobbying regulatory officials to quickly approve the merger. We are anxious for a taste of

the new services. Thank you for listening to my views on a subject that is important to rural America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug White
State Senator
14th Senate District

DW/jbi